



OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

PR02:167
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
04/02/2002

GOVERNOR DAVIS ANNOUNCES FORMATION OF FIRST-EVER STATE RECYCLED WATER TASK FORCE 04/02/2002

Blue Ribbon Panel to Recommend Ways to Increase Water Supplies

SACRAMENTO

Governor Gray Davis today announced the formation and the inaugural meeting of the State Recycled Water Task Force. The blue-ribbon panel of experts recommends ways to increase California's supply of recycled water and has set a goal to provide enough safe recycled water for the needs of up to 1.5 million Californians by 2007.

"Water is without a doubt the lifeline of our State," said Governor Davis. "I formed this important Task Force to make sure that as our State's population expands we will have a safe, reliable and adequate supply of water for all Californians."

The Task Force will discuss a range of subjects, including ways to increase the use of recycled water in industrial and commercial applications; opportunities for increasing the use of recycled water in applications such as commercial laundries; and approaches to work closely with initiatives in the CALFED program to maximize water conservation and water use efficiency strategies.

The Task Force is a result of Governor Davis signing AB 331 into law in October 2001. Organized and administered by the State Department of Water Resources, the Task Force is chaired by Richard Katz, a member of the State Water Resources Control Board. The Task Force is composed of experts on the safe and beneficial uses of recycled water including a broad range of community participants, and representatives from environmental organizations and industry.

Among the Task Force members is Dr. Takashi Asano, a UC Davis adjunct professor of civil and environmental engineering and the 2001 recipient of the prestigious Stockholm Water Prize for his outstanding achievements related to recycled water and protection of the world's water resources. The Stockholm Prize is considered by water scientists to be on par with the Nobel Prize in other disciplines.

The Task Force is holding its first meeting in the Cal/EPA building, 1001 I Street in Sacramento at 10 a.m. on April 3, 2002. The next meeting will be held June 3, 2002 in conjunction with the Water Reuse Research Conference in Los Angeles. The Task Force is charged with preparing a report of recommendations by July 1, 2003.

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